

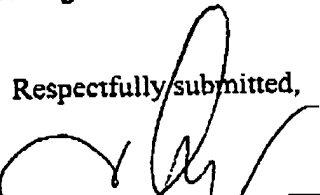
REMARKS

Claims 13 through 15, 17 through 20, 36 through 45, 57 and 58 are presently pending. In an office action mailed March 16, 2004 (Paper no. 03122004), the specification was objected to as claiming priority to the incorrect application. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Halaby*. Claims 13-16 and 36-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Soltys*. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Soltys* in view of *Halaby*. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Soltys* in view of *Hogan*. The Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner that claims 18 and 19 are drawn to allowable subject matter. New claims 57 and 58 were previously presented for examination, and are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Further claim amendments are presented herein to expedite prosecution and to claim embodiments of the invention that are of commercial interest to the Applicant. All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

No additional fee is believed to be due with this preliminary amendment. If any required fee has been overlooked, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any fee overpayment relating to this matter to Deposit Account No. 01-0657.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher J. Rourke
Registration No. 39,348

Date: July 13, 2004
AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 688
Dallas, Texas 75313-0688
(214) 969-4669